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Getting Enthusiastic about Japanese Games

Learn how to invite someone to do something in using the Japanese phrase -masen ka

Mark Complete

Also Appears In: Conversational Japanese for Absolute Beginners, Absolute Beginner Season 2

Dialogue - Japanese

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Kanji | English | Rōmaji | All

A: テイラーさんは ゲーム、すきですか。

B: はい、だいすきです。

ちょっと・・・おたくです。

A: じゃ、これをしませんか。

Wii U です。

B: いいですよ。

(game over のおと)

B: あの…もういちど、しませんか。

A: えー。

B: もう いちど、おねがいします。

Vocabulary

Hide

English | Kana | Rōmaji

すき [すき]
likable, to like; Adj(na)
わたしはにほんがすきです。
I like Japan.
1 EXAMPLE

もう [もう]
another, more
ことし、もういちどメキシコにいきます。
I will go to Mexico one more time this year.
1 EXAMPLE

ちょっと [ちょっと]
a bit, a little
ちょっと、すみません。
Excuse me for a minute.
私は日本語をちょっと話します。
I speak a little Japanese.
2 EXAMPLES

おねがいします [おねがいします]
please
おかいけい、おねがいします。
Check, please.
みずとメニュー、おねがいします。
Some water and a menu, please.
2 EXAMPLES

いちど [いちど]
one time, once
ことし、もういちどメキシコにいきます。
I will go to Mexico one more time this year.
1 EXAMPLE

おたく [おたく]
geek, nerd, otaku, people with obsessive interests
わたしはゲームがだいすきです。ちょっとおたくです。
I love video games. I'm a bit of a nerd.
1 EXAMPLE

あの・・・ [あの・・・]
um...
あの、すみません。としょかんはどこですか。
Um, excuse me. Where is the library?
1 EXAMPLE

もういちど [もういちど]
once again, one more time, once more
もういちど、おねがいします。
Once more, please.
1 EXAMPLE

だいすき [だいすき]
to like very much, loveable; Adj(na)
にくがだいすきです。
I love meat.
1 EXAMPLE

します [します]
to do, masu form
ゴルフをしますか。
Do you golf?
1 EXAMPLE

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Lesson Notes

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Lesson Focus

The Focus of This Lesson Is Inviting Someone to Do Something.
もういちどしませんか。
Mō ichi-do shimasen ka.
"Shall we play one more time?"

In this lesson, you'll learn how to ask someone politely whether he or she would like to do something by using the negative form of a verb.

"Would you like to watch a movie?"

In Japanese, it is not polite to ask someone directly "Do you want to~?" Instead, we phrase the question literally as verb-*masen ka*, meaning "Won't you~?"

Remember, in the previous lessons, we learned the -*masen* form of a verb, meaning "don't (verb)"? To ask this question, all you have to do is use this -*masen* form and add the question mark *ka*.

Formation

[Thing] o [verb-masen] *ka* → "Would you like to [verb] [thing]?"

[Place] *ni ikimasen/kimasen ka* → "Would you like to go/come to [place]?"

Sample Sentences

1. といりをみません。
   Eiga o mimasen ka.
   "Would you like to watch a movie?"
2. あした、かいものにいきません。
   Ashita, kaimono ni ikimasen ka.
   "Would you like to go shopping tomorrow?"
3. このケーキをたべません。
   Kono kēki o tabemasen ka.
   "Would you like some of this cake?" [Literally, "Would you like to eat this cake?"]

Reference

Please also review the following Grammar Points.

- *-ga suki desu* → Absolute Beginner Season 1 Lesson 21
- *kore* → Absolute Beginner Season 1 Lesson 11
- *Omega shimasu.* → Absolute Beginner Season 1 Lesson 5

Key Vocabulary & Phrases

★ もういちど (*mō ichido*)
This phrase means "one more time." The polite version is もういちどおねがいします (*mō ichi-do onegai shimasu*), meaning "One more time, please." This phrase is particularly useful when you want to ask someone to repeat something s/he just said.

Cultural Insights

Would You Be Considered a Geek in Japan?

We usually translate the word おたく (*otaku*) as "geek" or "nerd," but in recent years it has become a rare example of a loanword from Japanese to English that is often left untranslated. In Japan, an *otaku* is usually someone who is obsessed with something that is considered "geeky," such as computers, anime, manga, idol singers, or video games, but we can use it to refer to an overly passionate fan of almost any hobby or form of entertainment. In English, though, it is restricted specifically to fans of Japanese animation, games, and manga. While in the United states and Europe it seems that some proudly refer to themselves as *otaku*, in Japan people generally do not consider this a positive label, and loudly referring to oneself as such can make Japanese people feel uncomfortable.

Otaku actually comes from an honorific word for someone else's home or family, which we usually write in kanji as お宅 (*o-taku*), and it is said to have spread as a slang term in its current usage during the late 1970s and 1980s.

The Wii U that Karol and Taylor are playing in the dialogue is the upcoming successor to the Nintendo Wii, which is due to be released in summer 2012. It has a new controller with an embedded touchscreen and will be compatible with all Wii games and hardware.

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Grammar

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Below is a list of the grammar points introduced or used in this lesson. Click for a full explanation.

ませんか・ないか masen ka, nai ka — Introduced
Won't you..., Wouldn't you

動詞の活用 (マス形) doushi no katsuyou (masu form) — Used
Conjugation of verbs (masu form)

好き suki — Used
likable

Lesson Transcript

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